

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 30 July 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government and referring to the letter to the President of the Security Council from the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States (S/2004/486), I have the honour to state that the islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa are integral parts of the Iranian territory and the Iranian Government rejects any claim to the contrary.

In line with the Iranian principled position of enhancing stability and tranquillity in the Persian Gulf region as well as in the spirit of good-neighbourly relationships, the Iranian Government has always offered to negotiate with the relevant officials in the United Arab Emirates with a view to removing any misunderstanding between the two countries with regard to the implementation of the 1971 memorandum of understanding between Iran and Sharja. We believe that letters such as the one referred to above are detrimental to creating a conducive environment for constructive negotiations.

Moreover, especially at a time when the real interests of the Arab nations are at stake, we believe that they would be best served if the Arab League focused on the real issues and refrained from raising frivolous ones, which might be injurious to the common efforts of the regional States to bring stability and normalcy back to the region.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) M. Javad **Zarif**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

